

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending in this application. Claim 23 has been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to the non-elected invention. Claims 1-22, 24-27, and 30-32 have been cancelled. Claims 28, and 29 have been objected to. Applicants have amended the two remaining claims in the hope of bringing the claims into conformance with current practices in the art. Applicants' remarks below will be made in context of the claim set remaining after this amendment.

In view of the following amendment and response, the Applicants believe the claims presented herein are allowable. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

PRIORITY

The Applicants have attached a copy of the PCT transmittal form, mailed 05 November 2001, as proof that there was a proper claim to priority. In addition, to expedite prosecution of the present application, the Applicants have formally amended the first line of the specification to reflect the priority herein.

OBJECTIONS TO THE SPECIFICATION

The Examiner has objected to the disclosure of the specification because it contains embedded typographical errors. Examiner has requested appropriate correction.

Applicants have amended the specification and claims to replace degrees Celsius "EC" with the abbreviation "°C".

Applicants have amended the specification to remove the description of Figure 1.

Applicants have amended the specification to properly identify the trademark AMPLITAQ®.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

Claims 1-22, 24-27 and 30-32 have been cancelled. Therefore, the rejections applying to these claims are moot.

Claims 28-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Applicants respectfully assert that due to the amendments made to the existing claims, this rejection is now traversed. Specifically, the Applicants have

amended the preamble to more distinctly point out that the method produces a "DNA sequence fusion cassette". Furthermore, the Applicants assert that the "DNA" in the term "DNA sequence fusion cassette" is intended to limit such that any product produced by the method must consist entirely of DNA.

The Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the forgoing remarks and the claims as amended, the Applicants have overcome the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 24-27 have been cancelled. Therefore, the rejections are moot.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 30-32 have been cancelled. Therefore, the rejections are moot.

The Applicants reserve the right to prosecute, in one or more patent applications, the claims to non-elected inventions, the claims as originally filed, and any other claims supported by the specification. The Applicants thank the Examiner for the Office Action and believe this response to be a full and complete response to such Office Action. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

If it would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to confer with the Applicants' undersigned agent.

Respectfully submitted,



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